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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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POL 13-1045 B

INDICATE:  
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ACTION: Amembassy MOSCOW

INFO: USUN New York  
Embassy TEL AVIV

STATE

SUBJECT: Jewish Defense League

REVIEWED BY: MAC/MA

DATE: 3/3/81

REASON(S)

EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED BY: [illegible]

REASON(S)

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1. In response to question at noon briefing Jan. 18  
Dept. press spokesman gave following statement on JDL  
request made Jan. 15 for meeting between Secy and JDL  
leader Kahane on Jan. 18:

A. There was a call from a representative of the  
Rabbi on Friday last; and it said two things, [XXXXXXXXXX]  
-- that the JDL is about to "move to the next stage  
of escalation" -- and, secondly, requested a meeting today  
with the Secretary of State.

We have informed the JDL office that we would not  
agree to a meeting with the Secretary.

Now, it is our view that the violent and disruptive  
actions undertaken by the JDL and the announced intention  
to escalate these activities -- it would, therefore, serve  
no useful purpose, in our judgment, for Secretary

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EUR/SOV/SE [illegible]

1/19/71

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EUR -- Mr. Davies

CLEARANCES:

S/PRS - Mr. King (subs)

EUR/P - Miss Allen (subs)

EUR/SOV - Mr. Dubs

NEA - Mr. Long (subs)

IO/IOA - Mr. Niland (subs)

SY/PRS - Mr. Tully

L/EUR - Mr. Brower (subs)

(subs)

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or other officials of the Department to convene a meeting.

A. And we, therefore, turned off the request.

2. Following question and answer session ensued:

Q. I've got about seven or eight questions here.

I was wondering who in the JDL office was notified about this decision.

A. A representative of the office.

Q. When was that -- today?

A. Yes.

Q. Bob, does that mean now there will be no meeting ~~with~~ with anyone in the State Department?

A. -- no authorized meeting.

Q. -- you said that the caller had said the JDL was about to move to the next stage of escalation, had called the State Department. Do you interpret that in any way as a threat against the State Department?

A. No, I wasn't interpreting it as a threat against the State Department so much as the obvious matter by their

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own intentions in New York.

Q. But, I mean, did the caller indicate whether they -- that they intend to pursue toward the next stage of escalation in New York or in Washington against the Soviets? Was it any more specific than that?

A. It wasn't any more specific than that.

Q. Then I'm thoroughly confused.

Q. Then is it taken to supplement or reinforce the EPS services in New York?

A. Since the weekend?

Q. For protection of the Soviet Embassy?

A. No. They have -- I think some 75 men have been dispatched to New York over the weekend. They're assigned to certain of the Soviet installations there and installations of other governments. I don't know how long they would be required to remain there or any decision to add to the numbers.

Q. Bob, is it because of the police situation

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in New York though and not as a result of this call from the JDL?

A. Well, for one, Mayor Lindsay thought this would be desirable and necessary, and the Government agreed. But it obviously also has to do with what I've already said: the proclaimed intention of the JDL.

Q. Bob, did the caller say why Kahane wanted to talk to the Secretary?

A. I don't think it was any more specific than that; no.

Q. Bob, is the Department now convinced that these acts of destruction were by the Jewish Defense League?

A. Well, it's hard to walk away from that conclusion in light of everything that the JDL itself has said. Now that's not to say that here and there an incident may have been provoked by someone who's not a member of the JDL.

Q. There's a statement that I remember most

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frequently in which they say that they do not engage in violence. I wonder if that may apply.

A. That's hard for us to accept.

3. Addressee posts may also wish draw upon remainder of statement authorized by Secretary Jan. 15, but not used:

It is the policy of the United States Government, in accordance with the principles upon which this country was founded and in consonance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to support the right of peoples everywhere to free emigration. Accordingly, Americans of all faiths and their Government are deeply concerned by the difficulties placed in the path of those citizens of the Soviet Union, including its Jewish citizens, who have applied through legal channels for emigration abroad.

Officials of the Department of State have met frequently with representatives of Jewish and inter-faith organizations and other responsible individuals concerned with the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union, and they

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will continue to hold such meetings.

The Department wishes to note that the tactics of the JDL are achieving exactly the opposite effect from that which the JDL claims to seek. Its disruptive and violent activities in this country have served only to undermine efforts responsible ~~efforts~~ dedicated to resolving the underlying issue and have distracted world opinion from it.

END

ROGERS

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